GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2918
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
PRODUCTION OF MUSTARD
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned `Logon ko Jabran Tambaku Khilane ka Intjam Kar rahi hai sarkar` appearing in `Rashtriya Sahara`, New Delhi date November 7, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the reason for promoting production of mustard from abroad in India by the Government of India; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ban the commercial production of genetically engineered mustard in the country till its tests are conducted and their results are achieved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir. A news item has appeared as referred to.
(b) & (c): Environmental release of any such material as mentioned in the news item referred to, has been neither recommended nor effected as yet. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forest is the nodal agency for such clearance. The proposal for permission for commercial release and marketing of transgenic mustard and seed production of transgenic mustard has not been cleared yet by the GEAC.
(d) & (e): Question does not arise, Sir.